



IN BRIEF

Resilience and Empowerment of Vulnerable Women: The Future of Jordan's Growth and Stability

JANUARY – MARCH 2022



From where I stand: “I hope to build a more sustainable life for our families and community”

“Agriculture has always been my passion. My grades needed to be higher to enrol in a bachelor's program, but I still needed to obtain my diploma in vegetable production. I had a few months of experience as a school vocational trainer, but it was not permanent. I wanted to continue my higher education, and my husband was supportive, but it was impossible because we could not afford it.

I stayed home for many years, taking care of my family until I learned about the work opportunities at the Oasis Centre through a WhatsApp group for women in Tafilah. My strong interest in agriculture and knowing that the Oasis Centre is a safe space for women and girls encouraged me to apply.

I also own a greenhouse and would like to share my knowledge with other women in the community. At the Oasis, I train fellow women on the basics of agriculture and planting and ploughing. The training also includes the benefits of greenhouses, utilizing different tools and equipment, and how to grow crops and use fertilizers to maximize productivity so women can start applying their skills in their farm work. I also teach them about poly-agriculture, a sustainable way to grow different types of produce on the same land, improving soil property by stabilizing nitrogen.

Becoming a part of the Oasis Centre changed my life for the better. As my husband has a disability, I am grateful to be able to use my work to provide for my family. But beyond this, I have also grown as a person. Joining the Oasis has been a great learning opportunity for me. Before, I spent most of my time at home, looking after my children and doing house chores. I only went out and interacted a little with others. When I started working, I met many people, and being a trainer, has encouraged



Photo: UN Women/ Tamara Abidin

Aida Salameh Khalil Al-Rawajfeh, agriculture trainer, overseeing trainees during a practical training session at the UN Women-supported Oasis Centre in Tafilah.

me to push my boundaries and become more proactive. Now, I am more comfortable interacting with others, whether they are my neighbours, managers, or police. I also perceive myself as being a productive member of the society. When I work, I feel alive.

This opportunity made me realize how eager I am to continue my education in the field of agriculture. I also plan to expand my hatchery and start my business using modern agriculture and hydroponics. I hope to work with other women so we can all learn and benefit from this cooperative and build a more sustainable life for our families and community.”

Aida Salameh Khalil Al-Rawajfeh, 49, is a trainer in the agriculture sector at the Oasis Centre in Tafilah, Jordan, where she shares her skills and knowledge and sets an example for other women in her community. The work in host community Oasis Centres is implemented by UN Women and the Ministry of Social Development funded by the European Union Trust Fund 'Madad'.

International Women's Day 2022: Emphasizing Gender Equality for a Sustainable Future



Photo: UN Women/ Ye Ji Lee

Women from the Oasis Centre of Ais, Tafilah, Jordan, planting seedlings during the practical agriculture training session.

Marking International Women's Day (IWD) 2022, the theme is "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow". This highlights women's central role in addressing climate change and ensuring a sustainable future. Climate threats profoundly affect marginalized groups, especially women, who often rely on vulnerable natural resources. However, women stand as key leaders in climate action, making their decision-making involvement crucial. UN Women, in partnership with the Jordanian government and other stakeholders, is spearheading various activities at the Oasis centres in Jordan, funded by the EU Trust Fund 'Madad'. The IWD 2022 UN observance emphasizes the synergy of gender equality, climate action, and holistic development, reminding us that without gender parity today, a sustainable tomorrow remains a distant dream.



UN Women/Zaid Alawneh



I want all of them to become as empowered as I am. My advice to them is to never give up: never underestimate your potential and do not let others bring you down.

AMNEH QASIM

UN Women's Cash for Work project in Jordan supported by the European Union through the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis, the Madad Fund

[Click here](#) to read the story of Amnem.



Photo: UN Women/ Ye Ji Lee

The Oasis centres stand as a testament to the collaboration between UN Women and the European Union, offering online education to many. This essential alliance guarantees that the flow of knowledge remains undisturbed, even amidst the trials brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Undoubtedly, education acts as a primary mechanism to uplift and empower women in our society. Within the confines of the Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps, these Oasis centres play a crucial role, presenting vulnerable Syrian refugee women with the chance to acquire valuable skills and craft sustainable futures for themselves.



Photo: UN Women

Collaborating with the Ministry of Social Development to reinforce gender mainstreaming in social protection and livelihood support for vulnerable women across Jordan.

Empowering Women through the Oasis Model

In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development, we are passionately working to enhance gender mainstreaming within Jordan's social protection services. Our focused approach aims to uplift the nation's most vulnerable women by providing them with vital livelihood support. The Oasis model, designed for inclusivity and sustainability, is central to this mission. With the funding support of the EU Trust Fund 'Madad', our initiative is not only gaining traction but also redefining societal norms. It goes beyond immediate needs; it's about changing narratives and recognizing every woman's invaluable contribution. Our vision is a Jordan where gender equality isn't a lofty ideal but a lived reality. Through strategic partnerships and determined efforts, we are paving the way for a brighter, more gender-inclusive future.

“I aim to stay and grow in my current workplace, where I developed a new version of myself”

Like many young Jordanians, 27-year-old Nermeen Khalil Hasan Ballan had difficulty finding work despite her diploma in architectural engineering. The job market was fierce, with many employers requiring years of work experience she didn't have. Her father's retirement added to financial pressures. “I wanted to find a job to support my parents with daily expenses,” she says.

While job-hunting, she came across the ‘Economic Empowerment Programme for Women in Jordan’, run by UN Women and Education for Employment - EFE Jordan with the support of the European Union through the Regional Trust Fund ‘Madad’ in Response to the Syrian Crisis.

“Joining this programme opened many doors for me. It equipped me with essential skills to succeed in the workplace, where I improved my time management, communication, and data entry skills. I can now set clear goals and achieve them, making me competent in and outside work.”

The training also taught her how to excel at job interviews. She says her newfound confidence made her less nervous, allowing her to present her experience and qualifications better.

After the successful job placement through EFE-Jordan, she is now the Executive Secretary at Orient Plastic Company, a position she credits mainly to her training under the programme.



Photo: EFE Jordan

Nermeen Khalil Hasan Ballan, 27, is now gainfully employed as the Executive Secretary at Orient Plastic Company.

“I still vividly remember my first day at work, being thrilled and happy,” she says. “Thanks to my manager, who coaches me daily, I continue to gain new skills and grow professionally.”

EFE-Jordan's job placement programme includes an intensive training course on soft skills to succeed in the workplace, focusing on communication, time management, teamwork, negotiation, presentation skills, etc., combined with a two-day training on gender-based violence and a three-day training on women's civic engagement. In 2021, EFE-Jordan supported 310 women with job placement to increase their opportunities to enter the labour market.



Photo: EFE Jordan/ Ye Ji Lee

At the Oasis Centre in Ais, Tafilah, Jordan, women lead theoretical agriculture training sessions. These sessions are integral components of the "Resilience and Empowerment of Vulnerable Women: The Future of Jordan's Growth and Stability" programme. The initiative, aimed at fostering resilience and empowerment, receives its funding from the EU Trust Fund 'Madad'.



It should not be a shame for women to go out and work, and I am proud I can work until this age.

NAWAL SAED MOHAMMED

UN Women's Cash for Work project in Jordan supported by the European Union through the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis, the Madad Fund

[Click here](#) to read the story of Nawal.